

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating a large animal comprising:

providing an infusion pump having an electric pump unit and a catheter in fluid communication with the pump unit;

providing a supply of fluid;

inserting the catheter into a fluid passageway of the animal;

operating the pump unit in a manner to infuse the fluid into the fluid passageway of the animal at a rate of greater than five hundred milliliters per minute.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the infusion pump further has an intravenous hook-up, the catheter being a component of the intravenous hook-up, and the step of inserting the catheter into a fluid passageway of the animal further comprises inserting the catheter of the intravenous hook-up into a venous passageway of the animal.

3. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the providing a supply of fluid step further comprises providing a supply of fluid wherein the fluid is an intravenous physiologically appropriate crystalloid solution.

4. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of operating the pump unit comprises operating the pump unit in a manner to infuse at least five hundred milliliters of fluid into the animal in one minute.

5. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of operating the pump unit comprises operating the pump unit in a manner to infuse at least ten thousand milliliters of fluid into the animal in less than twenty minutes.
6. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of operating the pump unit comprises operating the pump unit in a manner to infuse at least one thousand milliliters of fluid into the animal in two minutes.
7. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of operating the pump unit comprises operating the pump unit in a manner to infuse at least one thousand milliliters of fluid into the animal in one minute.
8. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of operating the pump unit comprises operating the pump unit in a manner to infuse at least five hundred milliliters of fluid into the animal in less than one minute.
9. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the pump unit is a peristaltic pump.
10. A method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising:
  - providing a supply of cleaning solution and a supply of rinsing solution;
  - disconnecting the infusion pump from the animal and the supply of fluid;
  - connecting the infusion pump to the cleaning solution;

operating the infusion pump to pump cleaning solution through the infusion pump;  
disconnecting the infusion pump from the cleaning solution;  
connecting the infusion pump to the rinsing solution; and  
operating the infusion pump to pump rinsing solution through the infusion pump.

11. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the infusion pump includes a three-way stopcock in fluid communication with the pump unit and the catheter and the method further comprises:

adding a medication via the three way stopcock to the fluid being infused into the animal.

12. A kit comprising an electric pump unit capable of pumping at least five hundred milliliters of fluid per minute packaged with a manual providing instructions for use of the pump unit to infuse fluid into an animal by fluidly connecting the pump unit to a catheter inserted into a fluid passageway of the animal and operating the pump unit in a manner to infuse fluid into the fluid passageway of the animal at a rate of greater than five hundred milliliters per minute.

13. An infusion pump for use with a large animal such as a horse or a cow, the infusion pump comprising:

an electric pump unit and a catheter, the catheter being in fluid communication with the pump unit, the catheter being adapted for insertion into a venous passageway

of the animal, the pump unit being adapted to pump at least five hundred milliliters of an intravenous physiologically appropriate crystalloid solution through the catheter and into the animal in one minute at a flow rate of at least five hundred milliliters per minute.

14. An infusion pump as set forth in claim 13, the infusion pump further comprising a flow regulator adapted to enable a user to vary the flow rate of the infusion pump.

15. An infusion pump as set forth in claim 14 wherein the flow regulator and pump unit are adapted to permit a user to vary the flow rate of the pump unit between five hundred milliliters per minute and a maximum flow rate, the maximum flow rate being at least one thousand milliliters per minute.

16. An infusion pump as set forth in claim 14 wherein the flow regulator and pump unit are adapted to permit a user to vary the flow rate of the pump unit between five hundred milliliters per minute and a maximum flow rate, the maximum flow rate being about one thousand two hundred and fifty milliliters per minute.

17. An infusion pump as set forth in claim 13 wherein the pump unit is a peristaltic pump.

18. An infusion pump as set forth in claim 13 further comprising a heat exchanger adjacent the pump unit, the heat exchanger being adapted to heat the fluid being pumped through the catheter.

19. An infusion pump as set forth in claim 13 comprising an intravenous hook-up, the catheter being a component of the intravenous hook-up, the intravenous hook-up being adapted to fluidly connect a venous passageway of the animal to the pump unit.

20. An infusion pump as set forth in claim 19 wherein the intravenous hook-up includes a bubble trap and the catheter, the bubble trap being adapted to eliminate bubbles in the intravenous physiologically appropriate crystalloid solution.

21. An infusion pump as set forth in claim 13 further comprising a three way stop cock in fluid communication with the pump unit and the catheter, the three way stop cock being adapted to enable a user to introduce an additional fluid into the animal via the intravenous physiologically appropriate crystalloid solution being delivered by the pump unit.